



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
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8M

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/865,841	05/30/97	NIELSEN	J 2860-059-P22

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LOWE PRICE LEBLANC & BECKER  
99 CANAL CENTER PLAZA  
SUITE 300  
ALEXANDRIA VA 22314

EXAMINER

MILLS, J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2771

4

DATE MAILED:

10/08/98

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
**08/865,841**

Applicant(s)  
**Nielsen**

Examiner  
**John Mills**

Group Art Unit  
**2771**



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 26, 1998

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

## Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.  
Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some\* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

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### DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-26 are presented for examination.
2. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 250 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 250 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Under the need to describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers, the applicant is reminded to detail in the abstract the gist of the invention and the problem which the invention solves in making a contribution to the art.

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Brunner et al.

U.S. Patent 5,550,971. The applicant's search system is essentially taught by the prior art teaching of a database management system with adaptive user interface as follows.

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In claim 1, the applicant's limitations of a bus, information accessible through said bus, a communications interface, and a processor configured to receive search queries and provide a list of terms used in search queries, are taught by the reference as the user interface with connectors to a keyboard and mouse (See elements 16, 18, and 20 of figure 1) and the processor of the local/networked computer system (See element 14 of figure 1). The storage and processing of query requests is shown by internal query language processor (element 22) together with the semantic model (element 24). These structural elements are described in more detail on col. 4 line 19 et seq. of the prior art teaching.

In claim 2, the adding of a term or query as a meta-tag is shown by the meta model layer of figure 2 and discussed on col. 5 line 21 et seq.

In claim 3, the limitation of an inverted index is inherent in the teaching of the reference as indexing is well known in the data processing art.

In claim 4, the limitation of a network with users is also taught by the prior art as the networked computer system (element 14 in figure 1) used for database retrieval for various clients as discussed on Col. 4 line 6 et seq.

In claim 5, the adding of a term or query as a meta-tag is shown by the meta model layer of figure 2 and discussed on col. 5 line 21 et seq.

In claim 6, the limitation of an inverted index is inherent in the teaching of the reference as indexing is well known in the data processing art.

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In claim 7, the method of enhancing information retrieval has also been essentially shown by the reference as query processing with the meta model which is an abstract description of the various object types and relationships. The frequency of occurrence of an object type is shown by the storage of "instances" of DOT types defined in the model layer (See Figure 3 element 108).

In claims 7-10, the additional limitations of the method of presenting terms to the user with portions of the document would be inherent in the user interface for conveying database retrieved information in various formats to the user (See Col. 5 line 21 et seq.)

In claim 11, the adding of a term or query as a meta-tag is shown by the meta model layer of figure 2 and discussed on col. 5 line 21 et seq.

In claim 12, the limitation of an inverted index is inherent in the teaching of the reference as indexing is well known in the data processing art.

Claims 13-22 are rejected in the analysis of claims 7-12 above and are rejected on that basis.

Claims 23--26 set forth the invention as a computer program product and claim essentially the same features that are set forth in the apparatus and method claims analyzed above. The features of the computer program product to carry out the invention are inherent in the prior art teaching as detailed in the analysis above.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John G. Mills whose telephone number is (703) 308-9822. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 9:30 to 5:00.

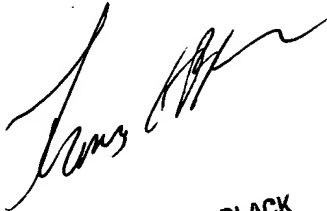
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black , can be reached on (703)-305-9707. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703-305-9731) .

John G. Mills



THOMAS G. BLACK  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
GROUP 2700